

304-200/PT/PTO 19 JUL 2001

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| Form PTO-1390 | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER NPR-082 |
| TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 | | | U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/889604 |
| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/00162 | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE January 14, 2000 | PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED January 19, 1999 | |
| TITLE OF INVENTION AMINO ACID-CONTAINING ALBUMIN PERPARATION | | | DATE July 19, 2001 |
| APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Yukio NAKAMURA, Yasuhiro TSUTSUI and Makoto SATO | | | |
| Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) (27 pages). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). | | | |
| Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included: | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. PCT/RO/101 b. PCT/IB/301 c. PCT/IB/304 d. PCT/IB/308 e. PCT/IB/332 f. PCT/IPEA/401 g. PCT/IPEA/409 h. PCT/ISA/210 i. WO 00/43035 | | | |

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|---|--------------|---|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| U.S. Application No. <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">09/889604</div> | | International Application No. PCT/JP00/00162 | | Attorney's Docket No. NPR-082 | |
| | | | | CALCULATIONS | PTO USE ONLY |
| 17.[XX] The following fees are submitted: Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$690.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) . . . \$700.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO . . . \$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) . . . \$100.00 <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</div> | | | | \$ 860.00 | |
| Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than [] 20 [XX] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). | | | | \$ 130.00 | |
| CLAIMS | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE | | |
| Total claims | 7 - 20 | | x \$ 18.00 | \$ 0.00 | |
| Indep. claims | 1 - 3 | | x \$ 80.00 | \$ 0.00 | |
| Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable) | | | + \$ 270.00 | \$ 0.00 | |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = | | | | \$ 990.00 | |
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| Processing fee \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than [] 20 [] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). | | | | \$ 0.00 | |
| TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = | | | | \$ 990.00 | |
| Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property + | | | | \$ 0.00 | |
| TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = | | | | \$ 990.00 | |
| | | | | Amount to be refunded: | \$ |
| | | | | charged | \$ |
| a. [XX] Check in the amount of <u>\$990.00</u> to cover the above fees are enclosed. b. [] Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>111833</u> in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees. c. [XX] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>111833</u> . NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to review (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status. | | | | | |
| SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK The Farragut Building Suite 710 900 17th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 | | | <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> Signature Ronald J. Kubovcik </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> Name 25,401 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> Registration Number July 19, 2001 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> Date </div> </div> | | |

09/889604
JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 9 JUL 2001

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Yukio NAKAMURA et al.

Attn: Box PCT

International Application No. PCT/JP00/00162

I.A. Filing Date: January 14, 2000

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: July 19, 2001

For: AMINO ACID-CONTAINING ALBUMIN PREPARATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Sir:

July 19, 2001

Prior to calculation of the fee and examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) An albumin preparation containing amino acids

comprising serum albumin, a plurality of amino acids containing branched amino acids and water.

2. (Amended) An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a content of the serum albumin is 0.01 to 1.0 w/v %.

5. (Amended) An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a content of the serum albumin is 0.01 to 1.0 w/v %, a content of said plurality of amino acids containing branched amino acids is 5 to 10 w/v %, a content of the branched amino acids is equal to or more than 30 w/w % on the basis of a content of total amino acids, and a Fischer ratio (branched amino acid/[phenylalanine + tyrosine] (molar ratio)) is equal to or more than 20.

6. (Amended) albumin preparation comprising 0.01 to 1.0 w/v % of serum albumin, 5 to 10 w/v % of a plurality of amino acids containing branched amino acids, a content of branched amino acids of 30 w/w % or more on the basis of a content of total amino acids, and a Fischer ratio (branched amino acid/[phenylalanine + tyrosine]

(molar ratio)) of 20 or more, the plurality of amino acids having the following composition:

| amino acid | content ratio (w/w %) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| L-threonine | 2.0 to 6.0 |
| L-serine | 2.0 to 8.0 |
| L-proline | 2.0 to 11.0 |
| L-cystein | 0 to 2.0 |
| glycine | 1.0 to 12.0 |
| L-alanine | 4.0 to 12.0 |
| L-valine | 10.0 to 14.0 |
| L-methione | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-isoleucine | 8.0 to 16.0 |
| L-leucine | 10.0 to 17.0 |
| L-phenylalanin | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-tryptophan | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-lysine | 3.0 to 10.0 |
| L-histidine | 1.0 to 5.0 |
| L-arginine | 7.0 to 21.0 |
| L-aspartic acid | 0 to 3.0 |
| L-glutamic acid | 0 to 6.0 |
| L-tyrosine | 0 to 1.0 |

the content ratio being a ratio by weight to total amino acids.

REMARKS

The amendments to claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are those made to the corresponding claims of the international application in an Article 34 amendment.

NEW PATENT APPLICATION
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

PATENT

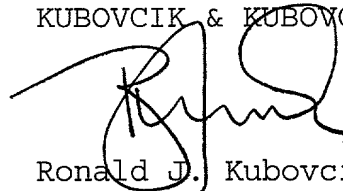
The amendments are supported in the specification disclosure by the description of the albumin useful in the present invention.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

In the event any fees are required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK



Ronald J. Kubovcik
Reg. No. 25,401

Atty. Case No. NPR-082
The Farragut Building
Suite 710
900 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 887-9023
Fax: (202) 887-9093
RJK/spb

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An albumin preparation containing amino acids comprising serum albumin, a plurality of amino acids containing branched amino acids and water.

2. (Amended) An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a content of the serum albumin is 0.01 to 1.0 w/v %.

5. (Amended) An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a content of the serum albumin is 0.01 to 1.0 w/v %, a content of said plurality of amino acids containing branched amino acids is 5 to 10 w/v %, a content of the branched amino acids is equal to or more than 30 w/w % on the basis of a content of total amino acids, and a Fischer ratio (branched amino acid/[phenylalanine + tyrosine] (molar ratio)) is equal to or more than 20.

6. (Amended) albumin preparation comprising 0.01 to 1.0 w/v

% of serum albumin, 5 to 10 w/v % of a plurality of amino acids containing branched amino acids, a content of branched amino acids of 30 w/w % or more on the basis of a content of total amino acids, and a Fischer ratio (branched amino acid/[phenylalanine + tyrosine] (molar ratio)) of 20 or more, the plurality of amino acids having the following composition:

| amino acid | content ratio (w/w %) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| L-threonine | 2.0 to 6.0 |
| L-serine | 2.0 to 8.0 |
| L-proline | 2.0 to 11.0 |
| L-cystein | 0 to 2.0 |
| glycine | 1.0 to 12.0 |
| L-alanine | 4.0 to 12.0 |
| L-valine | 10.0 to 14.0 |
| L-methione | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-isoleucine | 8.0 to 16.0 |
| L-leucine | 10.0 to 17.0 |
| L-phenylalanin | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-tryptophan | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-lysine | 3.0 to 10.0 |
| L-histidine | 1.0 to 5.0 |
| L-arginine | 7.0 to 21.0 |
| L-aspartic acid | 0 to 3.0 |
| L-glutamic acid | 0 to 6.0 |
| L-tyrosine | 0 to 1.0 |

the content ratio being a ratio by weight to total amino acids.

DESCRIPTIONAMINO ACID-CONTAINING ALBUMIN PREPARATIONTechnical Field

5 This invention relates to an albumin preparation useful for treatment of hepatic malfunctions including hepatic encephalopathy, hepatic coma and the like and, especially, to an albumin preparation containing amino acids including a large amount of branched amino acids.

10 Background Techniques

Hepatic encephalopathy is a complication that is often observed when a hepatic malfunction such as liver cirrhosis, fulminant hepatic failure and the like occurs, and presents various psychoneurosis symptoms. As an early indication of the encephalopathy, such symptoms
15 appear that self-control is not exercised, hypnic rhythm is disturbed, or day and night are mixed up. Subsequently, judgement is lowered and the patient becomes confused, and finally, the patient lapses into a coma and cannot react to an external stimulus.

20 As to one cause of hepatic encephalopathy, it is taken very seriously that ammonia generated mainly by means of bacteria in an intestine is absorbed into the liver, is not detoxicated therein and

is transferred to the brain. Therefore, administration of antibiotics in order to remove the bacteria in the intestine, or administration of lactulose for absorption restraint of ammonia and the like (Japanese Patent Laid-open No. Hei. 10-158172 etc.) is conventionally carried out. However, the efficacy of these treatments is not yet sufficient.

Furthermore, as to other causes, an imbalance of the free amino acids in the blood plasma is noted such that a concentration of aromatic amino acids comprising L-phenylalanine, L-tryptophan, L-tyrosine and the like in the plasma is increased while a concentration of branched amino acids comprising L-leucine, L-isoleucine, L-valine and the like is decreased with severe hepatopathy. This imbalance of the free amino acids in the blood plasma causes an abnormality of amino acid metabolism in the brain such as an abnormality in transporting amino acids into the brain across the blood brain barrier, an inhibition of normal production of neurotransmitters in the brain, and production of pseudo-neurotransmitters. Therefore, there is a view that hepatic encephalopathy is caused.

Therefore, administration of an amino acid preparation containing a large amount of branched amino acids and a reduced amount of aromatic amino acids is carried out as a new treatment (Japanese

Examined Patent Publication No. Hei. 3-28403, Japanese Laid-open Patent No. 1-83017, and Japanese Patent Laid-open No. Hei. 3-127737). A preparation comprising such a composition is commercialized as a therapeutic agent for hepatic encephalopathy (JJPEN, 11(9), 1137, 1989).

5 However, this amino acid preparation shows a therapeutic effect of only about 46 % on hepatic encephalopathy caused by an acute hepatic insufficiency, and the efficacy is not sufficient (Shin-yaku to Rinsho, 31, 175-185, 1982).

10 Alternatively, the inventors of the present invention had an idea that if albumin is supplied and a concentration of albumin in the blood is restored on affecting such hepatopathy, amino acids administered as an amino acid preparation will not be consumed for albumin synthesis and the state of an amino acid imbalance will smoothly
15 improve, and as a result, abnormality of amino acid metabolism occurring in the brain with hepatic encephalopathy can be improved rapidly.

An object of the present invention is to provide an amino acid preparation for preventing an onset of hepatic encephalopathy caused
20 by a conventional amino acid preparation and enhancing an effect of amelioration of the symptoms.

Disclosure of the Present Invention

As a result of intensive research by the present inventors with a view of accomplishing the above-described object, it has been found that addition of albumin into an amino acid preparation containing
5 branched amino acids results in a superior therapeutic effect on hepatic encephalopathy. That is, it has been found that when a concentration of albumin in the blood is restored to a normal status by supplying albumin, amino acids administered simultaneously reduce the imbalance of amino acids without being consumed for synthesis of a protein such
10 as albumin in the liver, thus completing the present invention.

The present invention relates to an amino acid-containing albumin preparation which comprises albumin, a plurality of amino acids including branched amino acids, and water.

15
Branched amino acids in the present invention include amino acids having a branched alkyl group in the side chain thereof, that is, L-valine, L-leucine or L-isoleucine, and any of these amino acids can be used. Other amino acids are aliphatic amino acids such as straight-chain
20 amino acids (glycine, L-alanine), hydroxy amino acids (L-serine, L-threonine), acidic amino acids (L-aspartic acid, L-glutamic acid), amido-type amino acids (L-asparagine, L-glutamine), basic amino acids

(L-lysine, L-hydroxylysine, L-arginine), and sulfur-containing amino acids (L-cystein, L-cystine, L-methione). Further, aromatic amino acids (L-phenylalanine, L-tyrosine), heterocyclic amino acids (L-tryptophan, L-histidine), heterocyclic imino acid (L-proline) and the like are also included. One or more amino acids among these amino acids can be used. These amino acids can also be used as salts thereof, for instance, chlorides, acetates and the like.

A content of the plurality of amino acids including branched amino acids is 5 to 10 % by weight based on the volume of the preparation (w/v %). A content of branched amino acids is equal to or more than 30 % by weight based on the weight of total amino acids (w/w %), and the Fischer ratio (branched amino acid/[phenyalanine + tyrosine] (molar ratio)) is equal to or more than 20. If the content of amino acids is less than 5 w/v %, a therapeutic effect on hepatic disease is not sufficiently accomplished. Also, if the content of amino acids is more than 10 w/v %, the content of the amino acids increases to become insoluble in water, so that it is difficult to produce the preparation. On the other hand, if the content of branched amino acids is less than 30 w/w %, the original properties of the amino acid preparation comprising a large amount of branched amino acids for treating hepatic insufficiency can be diminished. Further, the therapeutic effect on

hepatic insufficiency is reduced to diminish the merits of the amino acid preparation for treating hepatopathy if the Fischer ratio is less than 20.

- 5 The plurality of amino acids including branched amino acids preferably comprises the following composition.

Table 1

Amino acid composition (ratio by weight based on total amino acids)

| amino acid | content ratio (w/w %) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| L-threonine | 2.0 to 6.0 |
| L-serine | 2.0 to 8.0 |
| L-proline | 2.0 to 11.0 |
| L-cystein | 0 to 2.0 |
| glycine | 1.0 to 12.0 |
| L-alanine | 4.0 to 12.0 |
| L-valine | 10.0 to 14.0 |
| L-methione | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-isoleucine | 8.0 to 16.0 |
| L-leucine | 10.0 to 17.0 |
| L-phenylalanin | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-tryptophan | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-lysine | 3.0 to 10.0 |
| L-histidine | 1.0 to 5.0 |
| L-arginine | 7.0 to 21.0 |
| L-aspartic acid | 0 to 3.0 |
| L-glutamic acid | 0 to 6.0 |

10

As a solution comprising the above-described amino acids, a conventional drug preparation, for instance, AMINOLEBAN (produced by Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory) and MORIHEPAMIN (produced by Hoechst

Marion Roussel), and the like is exemplified. The composition of these preparations is already known.

An albumin used in the present invention includes albumin derived
5 from animals, genetic engineered albumin and the like, but is not limited. However, albumin derived from a human is preferable in view of antigenicity. Human serum albumin, genetic engineered human albumin and the like are exemplified as an albumin derived from a human, but ordinarily, an albumin equivalent to albumin for medical use may be
10 used. Albumin treated thermally in order to inactivate viruses is also preferable. It is preferable to add an appropriate additive in order to improve stability of the albumin against heat while being thermally treated. The stabilizer includes, specifically, N-acetyl tryptophan sodium, sodium caprilate and the like. Moreover, in the
15 present invention, genetic engineered albumin is more preferably used in order to avoid virus invasion. The method for preparing the albumin by genetic recombination technology is not especially limited. Normally, a gene which encodes albumin is inserted into a vector and a host cell such as yeast, Escherichia coli or an animal cell is
20 transformed with the vector, and the transformed cell is cultivated to collect the genetically recombinant albumin. The albumin can be isolated and purified from the culture supernatant or the cultivated

cell. The purity of the albumin is preferably more than 99 % of total proteins.

An amount of the albumin used in the present invention is 0.01
5 to 3 w/v %, and preferably, 0.1 to 1.0 w/v %, in the preparation. If
the amount of the albumin is less than 0.01 w/v %, the therapeutic
effect on hepatic disease is not enhanced. Also, if the albumin amount
is more than 3 w/v %, there is a probability of causing circulatory
diseases such as cardiac overload and lung edema when a large amount
10 of the preparation is rapidly administered.

The preparation of the present invention is a solution containing
the above-described amino acids and albumin or a solid agent that is
capable of dissolving on application, and is prepared in the form of
15 a sterilized aqueous solution. Ordinarily, these components are
dissolved into an injectable distilled water. Therefore, the
preparation has a pH of 5.0 to 7.4, preferably, a pH of 6.0 to 7.4,
in view of the pH of human body fluid. An acid such as hydrochloric
acid, acetic acid, citric acid, and malic acid is used as a pH adjuster.

20 Further, a required amount of vitamins, for instance, vitamins
such as vitamin A, B1, B2, B6, C, D, E, nicotinic acid, pantothenic

acid, biotin, folic acid and vitamin-like compounds, electrolytes such as sodium, potassium, calcium, chloride, phosphorus, and trace elements such as iron, zinc, manganese, copper, iodine, selenium can be added to the albumin preparation in the present invention.

5

Also, nutrients such as sugars, for instance, maltose, fructose and xylitol, and lipids, for instance, soybean oil, cottonseed oil and sesame oil can be added.

10

In addition, stabilizers such as sodium bisulfite, or agents which can be administered into a human body can be added.

15

As the albumin preparation in the present invention, there exists a one-formulation type (e.g., one liquid formulation in which the total components are dissolved), two-formulation type (e.g., two preparations comprising a liquid formulation in which amino acids are dissolved and an albumin preparation) or the like.

20

A vessel for containing the albumin preparation of the present invention includes, for instance, a plastic bag comprising one or two chambers, or one or two glass vessels or a plastic bag comprising one chamber and, in addition, a combination of a plastic bag and a glass

vessel. As an example, all of the components of the albumin preparation of the present invention are dissolved into injectable distilled water and the solution may be filled into one chamber of a plastic bag, or separate components may be filled into both upper and lower ones of two chambers. Specifically, the vessel is a flexible plastic bag that is a so called "double bag" which comprises upper and lower chambers separated with a heat-sealed portion in a band-shape which can be easily peeled by strongly pressing the bag by hand. Each chamber provides an inlet and an outlet for the preparation. The lower chamber of this bag is filled with a solution containing amino acids and the upper chamber is filled with a powder, a solid or a solution comprising albumin. Another vessel includes an injection cylinder or a pre-filled syringe, in which an albumin solution is filled, and the albumin preparation filled in the cylinder or the syringe and an amino acids preparation filled in a bag can be used as a kit preparation.

A method for producing the preparation of the present invention is one in which albumin, for instance, an albumin aqueous solution or lyophilized albumin, is added to a solution containing the above-mentioned amino acids.

The preparation of the present invention containing the

respective components is required to be sterilized. Methods for sterilization include regular high-pressure steam sterilization, sterilization heated under lower temperature, filtration sterilization and the like, alone or as a combination thereof.

5

Additionally, the albumin preparation of the present invention can be administered intravenously into a peripheral vein, a central vein or the like, and is used by appropriately increasing or decreasing the preparation so as to be administered once or twice per day in consideration of condition, nutritional status, age, body weight, etc. of the patient to be administered aiming that, generally, a preparation of about 100 to 200 ml, preferably about 500 to 1000 ml, per adult per day can be administered.

15 The Best Mode to carry out the Invention

The present invention will be illustrated in detail by the Examples.

Preparation Example 1

20 An albumin preparation containing the following components was prepared.

Amino acid solution (components are disclosed in Table 2)

500 ml

Rat serum albumin (RSA, manufactured by Sigma Corp.)

1 g

According to the above formula, the components were dissolved,

5 and then the pH of the solution was adjusted to 6.6 to 7.4 using 1.0
N hydrochloric acid to prepare the albumin preparation. The osmotic
pressure ratio was 2.8 to 3.2. This drug solution was introduced into
a 500 ml infusion bottle and closed with a rubber plug, and thermally
sterilized at 60 °C for 10 hours. The drug solution after sterilization
10 had a pH of 6.6 to 7.4 and an osmotic pressure ratio of 2.8 to 3.3.

Table 2

Unit: an amount (mg) of amino acid dissolved in 100 ml injectable
distilled water

| | |
|--|------|
| L-threonine | 450 |
| L-serine | 500 |
| L-proline | 800 |
| L-cystein hydrochloride (monohydrate) | 40 |
| glycine | 900 |
| L-alanine | 750 |
| L-valine | 840 |
| L-methione | 100 |
| L-isoleucine | 900 |
| L-leucine | 1100 |
| L-phenylalanine | 100 |
| L-tryptophan | 70 |
| L-lysine chloride | 760 |
| L-histidine chloride | 320 |
| L-arginine chloride | 730 |

Preparation Example 2

The following albumin preparation was prepared.

A. Amino acid solution (components are disclosed in Table 3)

5 980 ml

B. 12.5 w/v % commercialized human serum albumin preparation

20 ml

The above-mentioned amino acid solution A was dissolved in injectable distilled water so as to adjust the pH of the preparation to 6.6 to 7.4 and was filled in a lower chamber of a double-bag and thermally sterilized at 121°C for 30 minutes after sealing the bag. On the other hand, the albumin preparation B (12.5 w/v% albumin) was filled in a lower chamber of the double bag and sterilized at 60 C° for 10 hours. When used, the two solutions in the double bag were mixed. The drug solution after they were mixed had a pH of 6.6 to 7.4 and an osmotic pressure ratio of 2.8 to 3.3.

Table 3

Unit: an amount (mg) of amino acid dissolved in 100 ml of injectable distilled water

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| L-threonine | 214 |
| L-serine | 260 |
| L-proline | 530 |

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| glycine | 540 |
| L-alanine | 840 |
| L-valine | 890 |
| L-methione | 44 |
| L-isoleucine | 920 |
| L-leucine | 945 |
| L-phenylalanine | 30 |
| L-tryptophan | 70 |
| L-arginine chloride | 1537 |
| L-asparatic acid | 20 |
| L-histidine | 310 |
| L-lysine acetate | 395 |
| L-tyrosine | 40 |

Preparation Example 3

Amino acid solution (components are disclosed in Table 3)

500 ml

5 Human serum albumin (HSA, manufactured by Sigma Corp.)

0.05, 0.5 or 5.0 g

The above-mentioned formulation was dissolved in injectable distilled water, the pH adjusted to 6.6 to 7.4 using 1.0 N hydrochloric acid, filtered with a membrane filter having a pore diameter of 22 μ m to remove bacteria and filled in a plastic bag. This preparation was preserved in a sealed vessel at room temperature while being shaded. The drug solution after being filled had a pH of 6.6 to 7.4 and an osmotic pressure ratio of 2.8 to 3.3.

15 Test Example 1

A test drug was prepared by dissolving rat serum albumin (RSA, manufactured by Sigma Corp.) in an amino acid solution (components are disclosed in Table 3) to form a 0.1 w/v% or 1.0 w/v% solution, adding 1.0 N hydrochloric acid thereto to adjust the pH to 6.6 to 7.4 according to Preparation Example 3, filling the solution into a 500 ml infusion bottle and heating at 60 °C for 10 hours after sealing the bottle with a rubber plug. In comparison, physiological saline or the amino acid solution (pH 6.6 to 7.4), respectively, was used in the same way.

Rat partial hepatectomy was carried out by performing a laparotomy of a male SD rat (body weight of 200 to 230 g) under etherization, removing a lateral left lobe, a medial left lobe and a medial right lobe (67 %) and closing the abdomen (Archs. Pathol., 1985; 12: 186-202).

A hepatic encephalopathy model animal was created by administering 2 M ammonium acetate solution at a rate of 3 ml/kg into the rat abdomen after 48 hours from the partial hepatectomy ("Kiso to Rinsho", 1987; 21: 2509-2527).

The test drug was injected from the rat tail vein (10 ml/kg) 2 minutes before administering the ammonium solution. Subsequently,

the coma period (minutes) was measured, blood was collected from the rat tail vein 30 minutes after administration of the ammonium solution, and the ammonia concentration in the blood plasma was determined by using an ammonia measuring reagent kit (brand name: Determiner NH₃,
5 manufactured by Kyowa Medics Corporation). The results are shown in Table 4.

As well, the creation of a hepatic encephalopathy model animal was confirmed by a coma of the rat resulting from administering an ammonium acetate solution thereto.

Table 4

| composition | adminis- tration of ammonia | number of animals | coma period (min) | concentration of ammonia in the blood (μ mol/dL) |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Physiological saline | - | 6 | 0 | 11 \pm 2 |
| Physiological saline (control group) | + | 7 | 38 \pm 6 | 154 \pm 14 |
| 1.0 % RSA | + | 5 | 31 \pm 5 | 129 \pm 13 |
| amino acid solution | + | 6 | 25 \pm 4 | 105 \pm 5* |
| amino acid solution + 0.1 % RSA | + | 6 | 14 \pm 2*** | 91 \pm 3*** |
| amino acid solution + 1.0 % RSA | + | 5 | 12 \pm 4*** | 91 \pm 3*** |

Numbers show mean value \pm standard error.

The concentration of RSA shows the final concentration.

*:P<0.05, **:P<0.01, There is a significant difference compared with

15 the physiological saline group (control group).

#:P< 0.05; There is a significant difference compared with the group in which amino acid solution alone was administered.

As apparent from Table 4, the rat serum albumin (RSA) alone had no effect on the hepatic encephalopathy. The amino acid solution alone showed a significant effect of reducing ammonia concentration in the blood and a tendency to decrease the coma period compared with the control group although there was no significant difference. On the other hand, the albumin preparation in the present invention showed a significant effect on decreasing of the coma period and reducing ammonia concentration in the blood, and thus the enhancement of a therapeutic effect towards hepatic coma was recognized.

Test Example 2

A test drug was prepared by dissolving human serum albumin (HSA, manufactured by Sigma Corp.) in the amino acid solution (components are disclosed in Table 3) in the same manner as in Preparation Example 3 to form a desired concentration of the solution (0.001, 0.01, 0.1 or 1.0 w/v %). 6 to 14 male SD rats (body weight 200 to 230 g) as test animals were used per one group, and creation of a hepatic encephalopathy model animal and a test method were carried out in the same manner as Test Example 1. The test drug was injected in an amount of 10 ml/kg

from the tail vein.

Table 5

| composition | number of animals | coma period (min) | concentration of ammonia in the blood ($\mu\text{mol/dL}$) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| Physiological saline | 10 | 37 ± 12 | 117 ± 11 |
| 1.0 % HSA | 10 | 33 ± 10 | $116 \pm 12^{\#}$ |
| Amino acid solution | 10 | 28 ± 9 | $92 \pm 12^*$ |
| Amino acid solution + 0.001 % HSA | 10 | 24 ± 8 | $91 \pm 11^*$ |
| Amino acid solution + 0.01 % HSA | 8 | $17 \pm 6^{\#\#**}$ | $87 \pm 13^{\#\#**}$ |
| Amino acid solution + 0.1 % HSA | 7 | $11 \pm 6^{\#\#**}$ | $82 \pm 11^{\#\#**}$ |
| Amino acid solution + 1.0 % HSA | 7 | $6 \pm 4^{\#\#**}$ | $79 \pm 12^{\#\#**}$ |

Numbers show mean value \pm standard error.

The concentration of HSA shows the final concentration.

*: $P < 0.05$, **: $P < 0.01$, There is a significant difference compared with the physiological saline group (control group).

#: $P < 0.05$; ##: $P < 0.01$; There is a significant difference compared with the group in which amino acid solution was administered.

As apparent from Table 5, while the amino acid solution had no significant effect of decreasing the coma period compared with the control group, the ammonia concentration in the blood was reduced significantly. On the other hand, the HSA alone showed no effect on the coma period or the ammonia concentration in the blood. However,

the albumin preparation in which more than 0.01 w/v % of HAS was added to the amino acid solution in the present invention showed a significant effect on decreasing of the coma period and reducing the ammonia concentration in the blood.

5

Test Example 3

A test drug was prepared by dissolving bovine serum albumin (BSA, manufactured by Sigma Corp.) in the amino acid solution (components are disclosed in Table 3) in the same manner as in Preparation Example 3 to form a desired concentration of the solution (0.1 w/v % or 1.0 w/v %). Creation of a hepatic encephalopathy model animal and a test method were carried out in the same manner as Test Example 1. The results are shown in Table 6.

15 Table 6

| composition | number of animals | coma period (min) | concentration of ammonia in the blood ($\mu\text{mol/dL}$) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Physiological saline | 8 | 30 ± 3 | 123 ± 7 |
| 1.0 % BSA | 6 | 23 ± 3 | 119 ± 10 |
| amino acid solution | 6 | $17 \pm 2^{**}$ | $94 \pm 9^{*}$ |
| amino acid solution + 0.1 % BSA | 6 | $7 \pm 3^{**\#}$ | $100 \pm 4^{*}$ |
| amino acid solution + 1.0 % BSA | 6 | $5 \pm 3^{**\#\#}$ | $69 \pm 13^{**}$ |

Numbers show mean value \pm standard error.

The concentration of BSA shows the final concentration.

*:P<0.05, **:P<0.01, there is a significant difference compared with the physiological saline group (control group).

#:P<0.05; ##:P<0.01; there is a significant difference compared with the group in which the amino acid solution alone was administered.

5

As apparent from Table 6, the albumin preparation in the present invention showed a significant effect on decreasing of the coma period compared with the amino acid solution alone.

10

Test Example 4

15

A test drug was prepared by dissolving human serum albumin in the amino acid solution (components are disclosed in Table 3) in the same manner as in Preparation Example 3 to form a desired concentration (0.01, 0.1, 1.0 w/v %) of the solution. 5 male SD rats (body weight 200 to 230 g) as test animals were used per one group. Ammonia encephalopathy model animals were created by partially removing the liver and then administering 2 M ammonium acetate solution. The test drug was injected to an abdominal aorta in an amount of 10 ml/kg 2 minutes before administration of the ammonium solution. After 1.5 hours from the administration of the ammonium solution, the blood was collected from the abdominal aorta under etherization. An equivalent volume of 5 w/v % trichloroacetic acid solution was promptly added

20

into the blood to centrifuge and, thereafter, the supernatant was measured using an amino acid analyzer (D-7000, manufactured by Hitachi) to determine the free amino acid concentration in the serum. The Fischer ratio was determined from the amino acid concentration in the serum.

5 The results are shown in Table 7.

Table 7

| Component | number of animals | concentration of amino acid in the blood ($\mu\text{mol/dL}$) | Fischer ratio |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Physiological saline | 5 | 8.1 ± 0.6 | $0.80 \pm 0.48^{\#\#}$ |
| 1% HSA | 5 | 8.2 ± 0.8 | $0.97 \pm 0.27^{\#\#}$ |
| Amino acid solution | 5 | $11.0 \pm 1.0^{**}$ | $2.15 \pm 0.12^{**}$ |
| Amino acid solution + 0.01 % HSA | 5 | $10.8 \pm 0.8^{**}$ | $2.97 \pm 0.31^{\#\#\#}$ |
| Amino acid solution + 0.1 % HSA | 5 | $10.8 \pm 0.7^{**}$ | $3.70 \pm 0.45^{\#\#\#}$ |
| Amino acid solution + 1.0 % HSA | 5 | $11.3 \pm 1.2^{**}$ | $3.20 \pm 0.5^{\#\#\#}$ |

Numbers show mean value \pm standard error.

10 The concentration of HSA shows the final concentration.

** : There is a significant difference ($P < 0.01$) compared with physiological saline group.

: There is a significant difference ($P < 0.01$) compared with the group in which the amino acid solution alone was administered.

15

The Fischer ratio of a normal rat was in the range of 3 to 4. In the physiological saline group, the Fischer ratio was extremely low as well as those in human serious hepatopathy and hepatic cirrhosis. The Fischer ratio was not improved in the group of 1 w/v % HSA but
5 a significant improvement was recognized in the amino acid solution group. Further, the group of the albumin preparation of the present invention (amino acid solution + 0.01, 0.1 or 1 w/v % HSA) showed a significant improvement compared with the other respective administration groups.

10 From the above results, it is apparent that the albumin preparation containing amino acids of the present invention has a positive effect towards the reduction of amino acids concentration in the blood and their imbalance which occurs in liver diseases.

15 Industrial Utilization

As mentioned above, compared with the administration of only amino acid solution, the albumin preparation of the present invention can reduce more significantly the ammonia concentration in the blood
20 of a model animal suffering from hepatic encephalopathy, and decrease the coma period. Therefore, the albumin preparation of the present invention is considered to have excellent effect in treatment against

failure of the liver functions including hepatic encephalopathy,
hepatic coma and the like.

Claims

1 1. An albumin preparation containing amino acids comprising
2 albumin, a plurality of amino acids containing branched amino acids
3 and water.

1 2. An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a content
2 of the albumin is 0.01 to 1.0 w/v %.

1 3. An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a content
2 of said plurality of amino acids containing branched amino acids is
3 5 to 10 w/v %.

1 4. An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a content
2 of the branched amino acids is equal to or more than 30 w/w % on the
3 basis of a content of total amino acids, and a Fischer ratio (branched
4 amino acid/[phenylalanine + tyrosine] (molar ratio)) is equal to or
5 more than 20.

1 5. An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein a content
2 of the albumin is 0.01 to 1.0 w/v %, a content of said plurality of
3 amino acids containing branched amino acids is 5 to 10 w/v %, a content

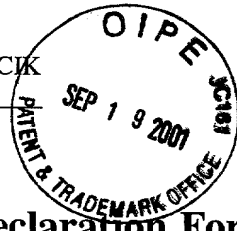
4 of the branched amino acids is equal to or more than 30 w/w % on the
5 basis of a content of total amino acids, and a Fischer ratio (branched
6 amino acid/[phenylalanine + tyrosine] (molar ratio)) is equal to or
7 more than 20.

1 6. An albumin preparation comprising 0.01 to 1.0 w/v % of albumin ,
2 5 to 10 w/v % of a plurality of amino acids containing branched amino
3 acids, a content of branched amino acids of 30 w/w % or more on the
4 basis of a content of total amino acids, and a Fischer ratio (branched
5 amino acid/[phenylalanine + tyrosine] (molar ratio)) of 20 or more,
6 the plurality of amino acids having the following composition:

| amino acid | content ratio (w/w %) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| L-threonine | 2.0 to 6.0 |
| L-serine | 2.0 to 8.0 |
| L-proline | 2.0 to 11.0 |
| L-cystein | 0 to 2.0 |
| glycine | 1.0 to 12.0 |
| L-alanine | 4.0 to 12.0 |
| L-valine | 10.0 to 14.0 |
| L-methione | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-isoleucine | 8.0 to 16.0 |
| L-leucine | 10.0 to 17.0 |
| L-phenylalanin | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-tryptophan | 0 to 2.0 |
| L-lysine | 3.0 to 10.0 |
| L-histidine | 1.0 to 5.0 |
| L-arginine | 7.0 to 21.0 |
| L-aspartic acid | 0 to 3.0 |
| L-glutamic acid | 0 to 6.0 |
| L-tyrosine | 0 to 1.0 |

7 the content ratio being a ratio by weight to total amino acids.

1 7. An albumin preparation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 preparation is used for treatment of liver diseases.



20374
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Declaration For U.S. Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.
I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled (INSERT TITLE) _____

AMINO ACID-CONTAINING ALBUMIN PREPARATION
the specification of which

(Check one
of 1, 2, or
3.)

1. ☐ is attached hereto.
2. ☒ was filed on January 14, 2000 as
International PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/00162
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)
3. ☒ was filed on July 19, 2001 as
U.S. Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed:

| (List prior foreign applications.) | <u>11/10628</u> (Number) | <u>Japan</u> (Country) | <u>19/01/1999</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed) | Priority Claimed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| | _____ (Number) | _____ (Country) | _____ (Day/Month/Year Filed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | _____ (Number) | _____ (Country) | _____ (Day/Month/Year Filed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

☐ See attached list for additional prior foreign applications

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120, of any United States patent application listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

And I hereby appoint as principal attorney and agent Ronald J. Kubovcik, Reg. No. 25,401; and Keiko T. Kubovcik, Reg. No. 40,428.

Please direct all communications to the following address:

Kubovcik & Kubovcik
The Farragut Building
Suite 710
900 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 887-9023
Fax: (202) 887-9093

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first or sole inventor: 1-00

Inventor's Signature: Yukio NAKAMURA Yukio Nakamura Date: August 17, 2001

Residence: % NIPRO CORPORATION, 9-3, Honjo-nishi 3-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu,
Japan JPX

Citizenship: Japan

Post Office Address: Same as residence

Full name of second inventor: 2-00

Inventor's Signature: Yasuhiro TSUTSUI Yasuhiro Tsutsui Date: Aug. 17, 2001

Residence: % NIPRO CORPORATION, 9-3, Honjo-nishi 3-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu,
Japan JPX

Citizenship: Japan

Post Office Address: Same as residence

Full name of third inventor: 3-00

Inventor's Signature: Makoto SATO Makoto Sato Date: Aug. 17, 2001

Residence: % NIPRO CORPORATION, 9-3, Honjo-nishi 3-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu,
Japan JPX

Citizenship: Japan

Post Office Address: Same as residence